

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-07 SS-15 AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00
COME-00 EB-08 FRB-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-20
TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01
INT-05 STR-07 /111 W
-----097718 081123Z/11

R 071533Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6958

UNCLAS GEORGETOWN 1832

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AFSP, GEN, SM, GY
SUBJECT: SCIENCE ATTACHE PROGRAM AND GLOBAL ISSUES

REF: STATE 118666

1. GUYANA IS A SMALL DEVELOPING COUNTRY WITH A POPULATION OF ABOUT 800,000 AND LARGE AREAS OF UNINHABITED LAND. ITS ECONOMY IS DEPENDENT UPON ITS EXPORT EARNINGS, PRINCIPALLY FROM BAUXITE AND ALUMINA, SUGAR, RICE, AND, LESS IMPORTANTLY, FISHERIES. BARRING THE UNLIKELY DISCOVERY OF AS YET UNIDENTIFIED NATURAL RESOURCES (SUCH AS FOSSIL FUEL), IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT ANY "SPECIFIC SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGICAL GLOBAL ISSUES" WILL REQUIRE "PRIORITY ATTENTION" FROM THE UNITED STATES.

2. GUYANA ITSELF, OF COURSE, CAN EXPECT TO BE AFFECTED BY WORLDWIDE DEVELOPMENTS IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. DEVELOPMENT OF ECONOMICALLY COMPETITIVE NON-BAUXITE SOURCES OF ALUMINA, FOR EXAMPLE, OR THE DEVELOPMENT OF Viable SUBSTITUTES FOR GUYANA'S CALCINED BAUXITE FOR WHICH THE UNITED STATES IS A MAJOR MARKET COULD HAVE A DRAMATIC IMPACT ON GUYANA'S DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL. OTHER TECHNOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC BREAKTHROUGHS, IN AGRICULTURAL, IN UNCONVENTIONAL ENERGY, IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF MARITIME RESOURCES, ETC., COULD

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WELL HAVE POSITIVE REPERCUSSIONS FOR GUYANA.

3. THE EMBASSY STAFFING IS ADEQUATE FOR ANY LIKELY DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ISSUES. IN ADDITION, THE AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (AID) MISSION IN GUYANA, WHICH HAS PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS TOUCHING ON SEVERAL OF THE AREAS NOTED ABOVE, HAS READY

ACCESS TO SPECIALISTS IN ADDITION TO THE RESOURCES OF
THE MISSION ITSELF.

4. GUYANA'S PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL ARE VERY SIMILAR IN
MANY REGARDS TO THOSE OF OTHER CARIBBEAN NATIONS. THUS
IT MIGHT WELL PROVE MORE FRUITFUL TO EXAMINE THE SITUATION
ON A REGIONAL RATHER THAN A NATIONAL BASIS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X

Capture Date: 01 jan 1994

Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: SCIENCE ATTACHES, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE

Draft Date: 07 jun 1978

Decapton Date: 01 jan 1960

Decapton Note:

Disposition Action: n/a

Disposition Approved on Date:

Disposition Case Number: n/a

Disposition Comment:

Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960

Disposition Event:

Disposition History: n/a

Disposition Reason:

Disposition Remarks:

Document Number: 1978GEORGE01832

Document Source: CORE

Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a

Executive Order: N/A

Errors: N/A

Expiration:

Film Number: D780239-0624

Format: TEL

From: GEORGETOWN

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780687/aaaacwyc.tel

Line Count: 70

Litigation Code IDs:

Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Message ID: 9c435e90-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION ARA

Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Original Handling Restrictions: n/a

Original Previous Classification: n/a

Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: n/a

Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: 78 STATE 118666

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED

Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 29 mar 2005

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a

Review Media Identifier:

Review Release Date: N/A

Review Release Event: n/a

Review Transfer Date:

Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 2458848

Secure: OPEN

Status: NATIVE

Subject: SCIENCE ATTACHE PROGRAM AND GLOBAL ISSUES

TAGS: AFSP, TGEN, GY

To: STATE

Type: TE

vdkgvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9c435e90-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings:

Sheryl P. Walter

Declassified/Released

US Department of State

EO Systematic Review

20 Mar 2014

Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014